

of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2017”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC2860 Senate Rules and Administration (September 19, 2017) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC2984 Senate Rules and Administration (October 04, 2017)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3415 Senate Rules and Administration (November 08, 2017)

A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center’s consolidated financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor’s report for years ended October 2, 2016, and September 27, 2015, and a report relative to the Center’s schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor’s reports for the year ended October 2, 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3865 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2018)

A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3971 Senate Rules and Administration (January 09, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3972 Senate Rules and Administration (January 09, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC4039 Senate Rules and Administration (January 11, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission’s competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC4362 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (February 27, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions

for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC4363 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (February 27, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC4774 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (April 11, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC6339 Senate Rules and Administration (August 27, 2018)

A communication from the Secretary of Homeland Security, transmitting a report relative to efforts to protect the United States’ election infrastructure; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC6366 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (September 06, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC6516 Senate Rules and Administration (September 17, 2018)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC6517 Senate Rules and Administration (September 17, 2018)

A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC7070 Senate Rules and Administration (November 15, 2018)

A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center’s consolidated financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor’s report for years ended October 1, 2017, and October 2, 2016, and a report relative to the Center’s schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor’s reports for the year ended October 1, 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC7577 Senate Rules and Administration (December 20, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reporting Multistate Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications” (Notice 2018-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### E-FRONTIER ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to give notice of my intent to object to any unanimous consent agreement regarding S. 918, the E-FRONTIER Act.

In January of 2018, media reports revealed that officials in the National Security Council were considering a proposal for the Federal Government to pay for and build a national 5G telecommunications network. This proposal was then widely criticized by top administration officials, including Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai and White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow. The President himself subsequently distanced himself from the proposal and made it clear that he favored a 5G strategy that is private-sector driven and led.

In response to this controversial proposal, a Senator introduced the E-FRONTIER Act. This bill prohibits the Federal Government from constructing, operating, or offering retail or wholesale services on broadband networks absent congressional authorization.

My colleague stated the bill is intended to “protect commercial 5G broadband networks from nationalization without authorization from Congress.” While I agree that there is no need, at the current time, for the Federal Government to offer commercial wireless service in well-served urban markets, I do not believe that Congress should be taking any options off the table when it comes to delivering high-speed wireless broadband to rural communities that have long been ignored by the private sector.

This bill is also drafted so that its impact would extend significantly beyond its stated goal. Not only would my colleagues' proposal prohibit the Federal Government from operating commercial wireless networks without explicit congressional authorization, but it would also prohibit the government from operating wireline networks, such as fiber and cable networks.

Passing this legislation would bar the Federal Government from offering fiber-to-the-home connectivity to the tens of millions of Americans who currently have no meaningful option for high-speed broadband internet access at home. In effect, it would tell Americans in rural and low-income communities across the country that, if the private sector does not think it can make a profit offering service in their communities, that is the end of the line for them. Outside of providing subsidies, the Federal Government would be barred from addressing these market failures by contracting to build the infrastructure itself.

Time and time again, Congress has, on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, maintained the critical importance of delivering broadband to all Americans, and not just those in big cities. This body should not ban any option for internet connectivity without fulsome debate and regular order.

Unfortunately, this need case is far from a hypothetical. As many as 162 million Americans across the country do not have access to internet service at broadband speeds, according to one recent analysis cited by the FCC. Congress should be passing laws that work to close this gap and not those that tie our hands as millions and millions of Americans are left behind in this new digital divide. It is an issue of fairness, it is an issue of equality, and it is an issue that must be subjected to vigorous public debate.

So I rise today with a simple and straightforward request: Before Congress limits possible broadband build-out options for decades to come, let's give my colleagues' proposal the careful consideration that it deserves. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see if we can resolve some of these outstanding issues in a manner that is fair, transparent, and timely.

For all of these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider S. 918.

#### CONFIRMATION OF HEATH P. TARBERT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I applaud the Senate's bipartisan confirmation of Dr. Heath Tarbert to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. I am confident that Dr. Tarbert, who is no stranger to public service, will lead the CFTC well. As the former acting Under Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, Dr. Tarbert has exactly the right experience, at the

right time, to lead the CFTC. The CFTC needs a strong leader like Dr. Tarbert. He understands how the markets are impacted by actions taken by Congress and U.S. Federal regulators, as well as those of our legislative and regulatory partners around the world. His experience clearly demonstrates appreciation of what led to the financial crisis 10 years ago. Dr. Tarbert also has the support of a range of agricultural groups, all voicing strong sport and appreciation for his experience in the financial sector, the effort demonstrated to understand priority issues, and the commitment to visiting agricultural operations to reinforce the importance of these markets to farmers, ranchers, growers, and agribusiness.

The CFTC is charged with fostering open, transparent, competitive, and financially sound markets, while working to prevent systemic risk. The regulation and oversight provided by the CFTC allows end users—farmers, ranchers, commercial companies, municipalities, energy companies, pension funds, and others—to hedge commercial risk using the derivatives market. These markets allow companies to generate jobs and produce goods and services for our economy. I look forward to working with Dr. Tarbert in his new role. Thank you.

#### CAMEROON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the grave situation in Cameroon, specifically the targeted attacks against the English-speaking minority community there, the ongoing conflict between armed separatist groups and Cameroonian security forces, and the country's many political prisoners. In response to the escalation of conflict in Cameroon's northwest and southwest regions, yesterday, Senator YOUNG and I introduced a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict.

Since the outbreak of violence in 2016, Cameroon's security forces have been credibly accused of grave human rights abuses, from suppressing the basic freedoms of expression and assembly, and arbitrarily detaining those who challenge the President's authority, to torture and extrajudicial killings. The victims of these abuses include Anglophone activists, some of whom were forcibly returned to Cameroon after fleeing to Nigeria. Since 2016, entire villages have been burned down, displacing hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians from their communities.

Where did this all begin? The current conflict can be traced back to Cameroon's colonial history, as a country formed through merging pieces of a former French colony with parts of a former British colony. The

Francophone majority has held much of the land since 1961, when Cameroon gained its independence. All the while, the Anglophone minority held on to its language and distinct judicial and educational systems as it continued to be governed largely by French speakers.

About 3 years ago, this all began to shift. The Francophone government began implementing the French language and imposing its own laws, judges, and teachers in Anglophone communities, and protestors rose up in response. Anglophone Cameroonians rightly saw this as an unjust imposition on their autonomy, as a tyranny of the majority seeking to do away with their language and identity. The fact that Anglophone Cameroonians are vastly underrepresented in the central government only exacerbates their grievances in this matter. In response to citizens' voicing their discontent, the government cracked down, arresting hundreds of people—including peaceful activists who were given terrorism charges—and deploying the military to Anglophone areas.

Over the past 3 years, violence has claimed 2,000 lives in the Anglophone region. Human Rights Watch has documented extensive burning of villages by members of the security forces in the last 2 years in both the northwest and southwest regions, as well as rampant killings of civilians and sexual violence. According to a July 22 Human Rights Watch report, Cameroonian security forces have killed at least four civilians and raped one woman since mid June alone during their security operations in the northwest region. Shockingly, those killed included an elderly man with a physical disability and a young man with a mental disability.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the circumstances there. My home State of Maryland is home to a large, active population of Cameroonian diasporans. Marylander Sylvie Bello and members of her advocacy organization, the Cameroon American Council, have been a leading diaspora voice calling for the United States to encourage the Cameroonian Government and armed militias to stop the violence. Many in the diaspora community across the United States are working with civil society organizations in Cameroon to address the needs of internally displaced persons, IDPs, in the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees on the Nigerian side of the border.

This important community has made something very clear to me and my team, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues in the U.S. Congress of it. The conflict in Cameroon greatly impacts Americans here in the United States, whether it be Americans with loved ones affected by the conflict, those who have traveled here to escape the conflict, or simply those of us who understand that being silent on issues of human rights is analogous to being complicit to their